

L. Jones

HUNTINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Public Health Inspector

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YEAR 1957



A N N U A L R E P O R T

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1957.

BY

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

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Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to submit my fifth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1957.

Some appreciable increase in the Birth Rate has resulted during 1957 as compared with the previous year and the figure now stands well above the national average.

The Crude Death Rate similarly indicates an encouraging downward trend although the corrected Death Rate remains approximately unchanged.

It is indeed a pleasing feature to note that during 1957 not one single child died under the age of one year, thus reducing the Infant Mortality figure for the year to nil.

Infectious Disease was less prevalent this year than last - there being about 100 fewer notifications. Some 14 cases of Dysentery occurred during the first quarter of the year - these being the last of the outbreak which took place at the end of 1956. The infection was of a mild nature and in no case was admission to hospital necessary.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued during the year as far as the limited supplies permitted. All vaccination was achieved with British manufactured vaccine.

The Borough's Water Supply remains satisfactory in quality and quantity. Samples are taken weekly for bacteriological examination and occasionally for chemical analysis and these prove that a high standard of purity is maintained.

The Huntingdon main sewerage scheme is now completed and the work on the sewage disposal works at Cow Lane, Godmanchester, is nearing completion.

The last of the 42 houses of the existing contract were completed during the year and plans are being prepared for a group of old peoples bungalows at Coldham's South.

The waiting list of applicants for Council Houses still remains a long one and it is to be hoped that it will be possible to recommence building houses for necessitous cases at an early date.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Council for the kindness and consideration they have shown to me, and also the Officers for their help and co-operation.

Your obedient servant,
J. CALDWELL.

STAFF
Medical Officer of Health:
J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector:
E. J. MORGANS, BSc., M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	..	..	2,151 acres
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1957	..	..	1748
Rateable value of the district	..	..	£81354
Value of a Penny Rate	..	..	£319
Estimated population (Mid 1956)	..	..	5590
Estimated population (Mid 1957)	..	..	5670

Vital Statistics

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	M	F	Total		
Legitimate	55	45	100	Birth rate per 1,000	
Illegitimate	5	4	9	estimated population	19.2
				(Ditto for England	
Total	60	49	109	and Wales)	16.1

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	M	F	Total		
Legitimate	2	-	2	Rate per 1,000 total	
Illegitimate	-	1	1	(Live & Still) Births	26.8
				(Ditto for England	
Total	2	1	3	and Wales)	22.4

<u>DEATHS</u> (all ages)	72	48	120	Crude Death rate per	
				1,000 estimated	
				population	21.2
				(Ditto for England	
				and Wales)	11.5
				Corrected Death rate	9.1

<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR</u>	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	NIL
(Ditto for England and Wales)	..	..	..	23.0

CAUSES OF DEATHS
(Registrar-General's List)

<u>List No.</u>	<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	--	--
2.	Tuberculosis, other.	--	--
3.	Syphilitic.	--	--
4.	Diphtheria.	--	--
5.	Whooping Cough.	--	--
6.	Meningococcal infections.	--	--
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	--	--
8.	Measles.	--	--
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases.	--	--
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	--	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	--	--
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.	--	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	--	--
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	5	4
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	--	--
16.	Diabetes.	1	--
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	10	8
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	12	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	--	--

<u>List No.</u>	<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
20.	Other heart disease.	20	13
21.	Other Circulatory diseases.	4	2
22.	Influenza.	2	1
23.	Pneumonia.	1	—
24.	Bronchitis.	3	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	—
28.	Nephritis, nephrosis.	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	4	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations.	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	4	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	2	—
34.	All other accidents.	2	—
35.	Suicide.	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war.	—	—
Total all causes		72	48

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The following Laboratory Facilities have been available to this authority and to General Practitioners in the area:-

Public Health Laboratory Service,
Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel: Cambridge 55526

Public Analyst, (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D, B.Sc., F.I.C.),
Tennison Road, Cambridge. Tel: Cambridge 2097

(b) Ambulance Services.

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Services, operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service, have been available on doctor's orders. (Tel: Huntingdon 348).

(c) Home Nursing.

A Nurse/Midwife residing in Huntingdon (Tel: Huntingdon 717) employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity Cases in the Borough.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(i) The following Health Services were provided by the Huntingdon County Council:-

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Patients seen</u>	<u>When held</u>	<u>Where held</u>
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	Every Monday 9.30 - 10.30 a.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5yrs.)	Every Tuesday 2 to 4 p.m.	Ditto
Dental	Pre-school and Schoolchildren Pre-natal and Nursing mothers	Every Tuesday and Thursday - 9 a.m. - 12 noon 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.	10a, Princes Street, Huntingdon.

(ii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board:-

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Patients seen</u>	<u>When held</u>	<u>Where held</u>
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday 10 a.m. - 12 noon	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Mondays 3 - 7 p.m. Wednesdays 4 - 6.30p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Patients seen</u>	<u>When held</u>	<u>Where held</u>
Venereal Diseases	Males	Mondays 5.30 - 7 p.m.	Out-Patient Dept: Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
		Wednesdays 5.30 - 7 p.m.	
	Females	Tuesdays 10.30 a.m. - 12 noon	
		Thursdays 5.30 - 7 p.m.	
Orthopaedic	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month (Surgeons by appointment) 10 a.m. - 12 noon	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:-

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Patients seen</u>	<u>When held</u>	<u>Where held</u>
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and Schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency) 10 a.m. - 12 noon 2 - 4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(c) Hospital Services.

Fever - Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital Services are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases are admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon or to Mill Road Hospital, Cambridge.

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1957:- 40

Pulmonary - 35 Non-Pulmonary - 5

Age Periods	New Cases - Diagnosed				New Cases - Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp:		Respiratory		Non-Resp:	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5		1						
10	1							
15								
20		1						
25	2	2			1	1		
35								
45								
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals	3	4	-	-	1	1	-	-

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

PUBLIC MORTUARY

A Mortuary is provided in Priory Road for the use of the district.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

					<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	1
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	--
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	--
Measles	..	..	..	..	103
Acute Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	35
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	12
Typhoid Fever	..	..	..	..	--
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	--
Infective Hepatitis	..	..	..	..	--
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	--
Dysentery.	..	..	..	..	14
Meningitis	..	..	..	..	2
					<u>169</u>

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the Town has been satisfactory, sufficient and of good quality. Bulk supplies are given to Godmanchester B.C. and to four parishes of the Huntingdon R.D.C. as well as to Brampton Park Air Ministry Establishments.

Very few properties in the Borough are without a mains water supply and it is expected that most of these will be connected to the mains when the sewerage scheme is also in operation.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Huntingdon Borough Scheme is completed but it will not be possible to bring it into operation until the Disposal Works have been constructed. The construction work on these works is going on satisfactorily.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Collections of house refuse are made once per week and trade refuse is collected by arrangement at agreed periods, on payment. Dustbins are collected from the side or back doors of the houses wherever possible. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Buckden.

HOUSING

On the American Lane Housing Estate the 42 houses were completed early in the year.

At the end of the year the Council owned 476 houses, representing 22% of the total estimated number of houses in the Borough.

14 houses were erected by private owners during the year.

The Council issued 10 Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	34
	(b)	Total number of inspections made for the purpose	..	47
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	..	--
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	26
(3)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Informal Notices were served under Public Health Act, 1936	..	12
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit under the above heading	..	12
(4)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Statutory Notices were served under Public Health Act, 1936	..	--
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit under the above heading	..	--

LODGING HOUSES.

There are no registered Lodging Houses in the Borough.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Capt. W. K. Townson, M.R.C.V.S., is appointed to carry out all duties under the above Acts. Regular inspections are made of all food shops and premises.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

During the year inspections have been made of shops occupied in the Borough, and conditions were found to be of a satisfactory nature.

FACTORIES.

The undermentioned factories are operating in the Borough:

Chivers & Sons, Amplion Ltd.,
Acoustical Manufacturing Co.,
Oriental Confectionery Co.,
P. & H. Engineering Co.,
Silent Channel Co.
Fen Potteries.

SCHOOLS.

The schools are kept clean and are well ventilated, and were not closed during the year for epidemic disease. They are adequately provided with water and sanitary services.

BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

The Council have By-Laws relating to new streets and buildings, and water supply.

J. CALDWELL.

Medical Officer of Health,
Huntingdon Borough Council.

HUNTINGDON,
July, 1958.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1957.

Complaints received	Total number of	..	84
Premises, Houses, etc. (under Sec: 92 P.H. Act, 1936)	No. inspected	..	29
	Nuisances abated	..	29
Animals improperly kept	No. inspected	..	--
	Nuisances abated	..	--
Drain, urinal, cesspool	No. inspected	..	27
	Nuisances abated	..	27
Smoke nuisances	No. of observations	..	1
	Nuisances abated	..	--
Offensive accumulations	No. of inspections	..	2
	Nuisances abated	..	2
Other Sanitary conditions	No. inspected	..	--
	Nuisances abated	..	--
Slaughter houses and Shops	No. licensed or registered	..	2
	No. of inspections	..	6
Offensive trades (Section 112 Public Health Act, 1875)	No. established	..	--
	No. of inspections	..	--
	(Houses affected with Tuberculosis	..	--
	(No. of inspections	..	--
	(Houses disinfected	..	--
	(Schools disinfected	..	--
Infectious Diseases	(Disinfectant used		
	Prince Regent		
	(Lots of clothing disinfected	--	
	(" " " destroyed	--	
Water Closets	New provided	..	42
	(Samples taken for Analysis	..	176
	(Samples condemned	..	--
	(Wells closed	..	--
Water Supply	(Wells cleansed, repaired etc.	--	
	(Public supply substituted		
	(for well or pond	..	--
	(Cisterns cleansed, repaired,		
	(covered	..	--
Building Bye-Laws adopted		..	--
Total legal proceedings i.e.	Summonses etc.	..	--
	Convictions	..	--

Factories Act, 1937.

Factories	Total number on register		
	including bakehouses	..	59
	No. in which nuisance abated	--	
Bakehouses	No. on register	..	1
Outworkers	No. of workers	..	2
	No. of houses	..	--
	No. of infected houses	..	--
Legal Proceedings, i.e.	Summonses etc.	..	--
	Convictions	..	--

E. J. MORGANS. Public Health Inspector.
J. CALDWELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

